



TRANSFORMATION

CG GIVES HIS PERSPECTIVE ON CHANGES THAT TOOK EFFECT, WEDNESDAY



Staff Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes
Staff Writer

According to the definition of transformation, it's a complete change or something with an improved appearance or usefulness.

That definition sums up what the 25th Infantry Division is doing today. The division will be a more capable and agile force that is capable of working and integrating itself with joint and

"Really, [E-Date] is just a technical term that is a mark on the calendar. Transformation is a process that is ongoing, and it won't happen overnight," he said. "We're getting our Soldiers trained up on new equipment, and getting them used to being a modular, self-contained, deployable team."

Not only does transformation allow Soldiers to become better fighters, but it also provides them with the predictabilities they deserve, he added.



Mixon

"This early announcement is a good example of that, and this gives Soldiers and families time to plan for this deployment, and will set them up for success," Mixon said. "Now, knowing for sure that you're going down-range, you can get your mind right, get your families' minds right, and prepare for a yearlong deployment."

The division and Soldiers will tailor their reorganization and training around timeframes to become a more ready force. Some of the division's units are scheduled to train in the National Training Center, in Fort Irwin, Calif., along with training sites on Schofield Barracks and the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawaii.

"I talk to Soldiers everyday around Schofield Barracks, and from what I'm hearing, Soldiers are busy. They're getting the required training, and they're adjusting well to the new unit formations that they are a part of."

"The division's transformation schedule has been busy, and we all can see that on a day-to-day basis," said the commanding general. "Our commanders and sergeants major are ensuring that the training is completed to standard, and that our Soldiers will be ready to deploy next year."

Training is only one of the many important aspects of transformation. One of the commanding general's top priorities is family readiness groups. Family readiness groups have been around for many years, getting better and more capable of supporting troops and their families while they are deployed, Mixon explained.

"I can't stress enough how important our family readiness groups are to the division. They provide continuity and stability while our Soldiers are downrange, and they help families cope with the issues they face when their loved one is deployed," said Mixon.

"I just want to say that the FRGs are a combat multiplier that doesn't receive enough recognition. It's a network of family members, spouses, husbands and wives who form a strong bond that strengthens the bond of the unit as well."

Ultimately, it's the commander's responsibility to ensure success of family readiness groups and training of rear detachment commanders, according to Mixon. Without FRGs and volunteers, he believes, units could not accomplish their mission.

Through time and effort, the division will complete its transformation, but until then, Soldiers and their family members will need to stay informed through various avenues through their change of command and also throughout communities.

"Soldiers need to be involved in the change," explained Mixon. "Soldiers need to stay informed by reading the *Hawaii Army Weekly*, the 25th ID's Web page and participating in unit activities such as FRG meetings."

Soldiers participating in transformation are especially encouraged to take a look at their organizations, and the way they are structured, and think about ways to make transformation innovative and more effective for all organizations.

"Our Soldiers have the right mindset; they are prepared for anything that will come their way."

"Our training here on Schofield Barracks is tough, realistic ... and it will prepare them for what they will face in Iraq," emphasized Mixon.

"The Tropic Lightning Division is proud to have been selected for this challenging mission. The Soldiers of America's Pacific Division are proud, ready and eager to show our Army and our nation that we are true to our motto."

"'Ready to strike! Anywhere, anytime,'" the commanding general said.



Stryker capabilities abound

Bradley Rhen
Contributing Writer

The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team began its transformation into a more lethal fighting force, capable of deploying anywhere in the world in 96 hours, after it returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

Based around the 20-ton, eight-wheeled Stryker vehicle, all SBCTs are designed to bridge the gap between the Army's heavy and light forces.

Eventually, the Army will outfit seven SBCTs: three at Fort Lewis, Wash., and one each in Alaska, Hawaii, Pennsylvania and Germany.

Three are currently operational, two at Fort Lewis and one in Alaska. The 172nd SBCT from Alaska is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The two SBCTs at Fort Lewis have previously deployed to OIF.

The speed and quietness of Strykers, compared to armored track vehicles, prompted many Iraqis, when the second SBCT was deployed around Samarra, to give the brigade Soldiers the nickname "Ghost Riders." The Stryker vehicles arrive and deploy their infantrymen with little noise or warning.

"They just don't know we're coming," one Soldier said when his Stryker traveled down a city street in Mosul, barely making more noise than the diesel generators that power many houses in a country chronically short of electricity.

SBCTs have 3,900 personnel and

include three infantry battalions; a Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) squadron; an artillery battalion; a support battalion; a military intelligence company; an engineer company; a signal company; and an anti-tank company.

Traditional infantry brigades are only organized with these capabilities for large training exercises or for war. In the SBCT, these units train together year-round.

The Stryker vehicle has 10 variants that include the Infantry Carrier vehicle, Mobile Gun System, Anti-Tank Missile Guided Vehicle, Reconnaissance Vehicle, Fire Support Vehicle, Engineer Squad Vehicle, Mortar Carrier Vehicle, Commander's Vehicle, Medical Evacuation Vehicle, and a Nuclear Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle.

The Stryker can be deployed by C-130, C-17, or C-5 aircraft, and it can be combat-capable upon arrival in any contingency area.

Stryker vehicles have robust armor protection, can sustain speeds of 60 miles-per-hour. They have commonality of parts and self-recovery abilities, and they also have a central tire inflation system. In other words, the tires can be shot out, and the vehicle can still run on them.

multinational forces.

The Department of Defense released information that the 'Tropic Lightning Division' will be deployed next year along with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Even before this, the division has been focused on training leaders and Soldiers, employing new equipment, structuring units to become a more lethal force and preparing for deployment at the same time since returning from Iraq and Afghanistan earlier this year.

"This announcement was not surprising to us," said Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, 25th Infantry Division commanding general. "We have been preparing to return to Iraq to participate in the global war on terrorism, and we will continue the training throughout the coming year, to include the training of the division staff."

Division leaders recently received an opportunity to learn more about the transformation in a two-day class designed to incorporate understanding and cohesion.

"One of the important parts of transformation is training our leaders," said Mixon. "For two days, leaders were taught by an expert about transformation. They attended classes, briefings and exercises all designed to allow the leaders to think about how transformation applies to their organizational units."

While these classes were tailored to enhance understanding, leaders were dressed in civilian clothes to relax the atmosphere and create a forum that had no rank.

"This allowed them to see the transformation in a different light," said Mixon. "They got good ideas to do inside their organization to help them improve this change process."

Leaders and Soldiers knew what to expect when the redesignation took effect Wednesday, Nov. 16. However, this date was only one of many dates the division was focusing on, according to Mixon.



Soldiers, families, communities will see impacts of transformation

Mike Egami
USAG-HI Transformation
Community Liaison Specialist

The Army is undergoing the most comprehensive transformation of its forces since World War II. It is increasing the number of active component modular brigade combat teams from 33 to 43. In Hawaii, the 25th Infantry

Division is transforming the 2nd Brigade; 3rd Brigade; Headquarters, Aviation; and Sustainment Brigades.

With transformation, the 25th ID is constructing new training facilities to tailor training to face the threat of insurgents on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Troops will be training with state-of-the-art equipment, and these

new ranges will offer a tough, realistic environment to hone the skills of our warriors.

Additionally, a new facility, the Battle Command Training Center will provide realistic training through information technology.

New vehicle roads will be constructed to keep military vehicles off of public highways when it is necessary to convoy to training

areas. Drum Road, a military road traversing from Helemano Military Reservation and Kahuku Training Area, will be redesigned and constructed as a two-way paved road.

However, although Drum Road is being upgraded for military traffic, the road could be also used as an emergency vehicle route during times of declared emergen-

cies by the State Civil Defense.

Currently, 28 construction projects on Oahu and the Island of Hawaii amount to an estimated spending of \$693 million. Out of this amount, approximately \$234 million is destined for the Island of Hawaii.

The labor force for many primary and subcontractors is local construction firms.

MAJOR SUBORDINATE
COMMANDS



1st Stryker Brigade
Combat Team
(Fort Lewis, Wa.)



2nd Stryker Brigade
Combat Team



3rd Infantry Brigade
Combat Team



4th Airborne Brigade
Combat Team
(Alaska)



25th Combat
Aviation Brigade



45th Sustainment Brigade

2nd Brigade gets Strykers

Pfc. Kyndal Brewer
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — With a history full of accomplishments, 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, is in the process of transforming into 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), to continue building upon its legacy.

“The SBCT is setting the stage for the future of Army forces,” said Maj. Dewey A. Mosley, the brigade deputy effects coordinator. “Concurrently, Stryker brigades are engaged in combat operations while newly forming Stryker brigades are preparing to deploy in their place,” he continued. “It is essential that these brigades are provided with the best resources and training possible to accomplish their mission.”

Second Brigade was originally constituted on Aug. 5, 1917. Since that time, the brigade has taken part in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and conflicts in Haiti and Bosnia.

“Everywhere they went, they made a name for themselves,” said Mosley.

In January of 2004, the unit deployed to Iraq, right outside the city of Kirkuk. During its deployment, Soldiers engaged in peacekeeping operations and humanitarian projects.

“The culmination of their deployment occurred just before they were relieved when they helped support the first free elections in Iraq in over 50 years,” said Mosley.

So far in the transformation process to a Stryker brigade, 2nd

Brigade has received five new activated units, which include 556th Signal Company; 5th Squadron, 14 Cavalry Regiment; 52nd Anti-tank Co.; 185th Military Intelligence Co.; and 66th Engineer Co.

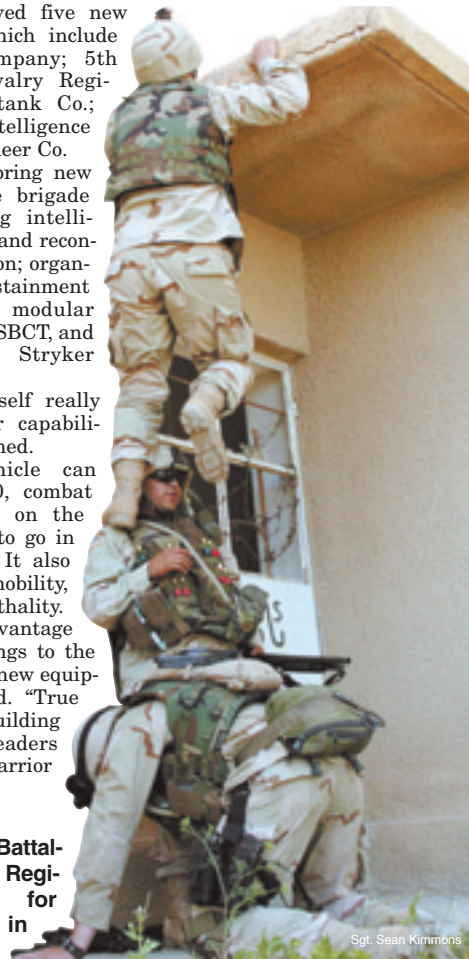
Each unit will bring new capabilities to the brigade such as enhancing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance integration; organic support and sustainment capabilities; and modular employment of the SBCT, and most importantly, Stryker vehicles.

“The Stryker itself really brings forth major capabilities,” Mosley explained.

A Stryker vehicle can deploy in a C-130, combat loaded. It can be on the ground and ready to go in about 12 minutes. It also provides greater mobility, survivability and lethality.

“The greatest advantage that the SBCT brings to the fight is not just the new equipment,” Mosley said. “True transformation is building adaptable, agile leaders that embody the warrior ethos.”

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, search for weapon caches in Kirkuk, Iraq.



Sgt. Sean Kimmons

3rd Brigade revs up training

Sgt. Maurice Smith
3rd Brigade PAO

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — It echoes constantly throughout the hallways of office buildings, barracks rooms and maybe even throughout the housing here at Schofield. For the Soldiers on this particular post, they are living it every day.

“Transformation” is all around this area. From unit conversion ceremonies to activation and inactivation ceremonies, brigades such as the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team are living transformation every day to be better prepared when called upon for combat.

“While Transformation is about change, it’s more about the future,” said Maj. Sam Whitehurst, executive officer, 3rd IBCT.

“Transformation is about making us more expeditionary and better prepared to deal with current threats as well as future, emerging threats,” he said.

Even as 3rd Brigade transforms to an Infantry Brigade Combat Team, they have been a fixture here in the Pacific for the last 40-plus years. Known as the Broncos, 3rd Brigade was organized under the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks on August 12, 1963. At that time, the Broncos were made up of three battalions, the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry; the 1st Bn., 35th Inf. and the 2nd Bn., 35th Inf.

Over the years, the Bronco Brigade has deployed in support of numerous strategic training exercises, humanitarian assistance missions, and combat missions throughout the Pacific Rim as well as other parts of the world.

Most recently, 3rd Bde. deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. As part of ongoing combat operations against the Taliban in Southern Afghanistan, they brought stability and security to one of the most war-torn areas in the region.

Now as 3rd Bde. transforms to an infantry brigade combat team consisting of two infantry battalions, a recon squadron, and a field artillery, special troops, and brigade support battalion they have just been alerted for deployment to Iraq sometime next year.

Col. Patrick T. Stackpole, the brigade commander, believes that transformation will give his unit the right forces in order to be successful in Iraq.

“We brought all of the combat support into the brigade . . . (and our) separate companies . . . are now part of the brigade every day vice in the past when we would only get them prior to deployment,” said Stackpole.

“This is the way that we fight. It should be the way we train. It should be the way that we work everyday,” he said.

Even as the Broncos transform, they will be ready for combat next year.

“We have analyzed the problem –combat in Iraq-



Spc. Claudia K. Bullard

Above — Capt. Brendan Raymond (right), 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery Rgt., leads members of his team on a foot patrol down a main thoroughfare in Kandahar City, Afghanistan.



Spc. Leslie Alberts

Left — A Soldier with 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, discharges a round during "reflexive fire" training at the KR4 Range on Schofield Barracks, Oct. 12.

well. I think we have identified the key tasks we need to be proficient in to successfully complete that task. I think we’ve got time to do it. So I’m very confident that we will be trained and ready to go,” said Stackpole.

The Broncos’ command sergeant major also agrees on the unit readiness being increased for this mission due to the transformation.

“The brigade will be ready to deploy. They will be ready to handle any mission given to them, just as they were given to them in Afghanistan,” said Command Sgt Maj. Frank Leota, Broncos’ command sergeant major.

“We got the right people in the right places, great leadership, leadership development programs, and a good thing about is we have a lot of experience still left from Soldiers who have been to Afghanistan,” said Leota.

“We also picked up experience from folks who have been in Iraq. It is a well-rounded organization with this new restructure of the IBCT, said Leota who has also experienced similar developments at a prior duty station.

“I’ve also done that (restructuring) with a Stryker brigade in Fort Lewis, so I’m no stranger to transformation,” he said.

With all of this going on, two things remain the same within 3rd IBCT since being activated and may never change – the Soldiers fighting everyday to ensure freedom for our country, and the Broncos motto, which has always been “None Better.”

Many units activate, inactivate

Master Sgt. Terry Anderson
25th ID Public Affairs Office

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — As the 25th Infantry Division works its way through its biggest structural changes since World War II, Tropic Lightning has welcomed some new faces and has bid Aloha to many of its traditional units that have played an important role in the division’s history.

Units that have already inactivated include the 125th Military Intelligence Battalion; 65th Engineer Bn.; the 1st Bn., 62nd Air Defense Artillery; 25th Military Police Company; Battery F, 7th Field Artillery; and the 125th Signal Bn.

The 125th Sig. Bn. held its inactivation ceremony Oct. 28, marking 64 years of rich history in the 25th Infantry Division.

“There are so many people to thank for the support of this battalion,” said Lt. Col. Anthony Farris, 125th Sig. Bn. Commander. “Voice of Lightning, Tropic Lightning, hooah!”

Units that will soon inactivate as part of the transformation process include 1st Bn., 25th Aviation Regiment; the 68th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance); 2nd Bn., 5th Inf. Regt.; and the 725th Main Support Bn.

Some Soldiers from the inactivated units are reassigned to other units across the division that need their military occupational specialty.

“Since the Division recently redeployed from OIF [Operation Iraqi Freedom] and OEF [Operation Enduring Freedom], many of our Soldiers [departed] to new duty assignments elsewhere in the Army,” said Maj. Dominic Sparacio, G-7 transformation deputy.

“This normal post-deployment turnover alleviated much of the issue of moving Soldiers from inactivating units to the remaining or transforming units. However, many Soldiers who were not due to PCS, and [who] were still needed in the remaining units, have been reassigned to other units in the Division,” Sparacio continued. “Any new positions not filled by Soldiers from inactivating units are being filled from elsewhere in the Army.”

Newly activated units include 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team’s 556th Signal Co.; 66th Engineer Co.; 5th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regt.; and the 185th Military Intelligence Co.

Company B, 52nd Artillery, activated Wednesday.

Units within the 2nd SBCT that have reorganized include the 225th Brigade Support Bn.; 2nd Bn., 11th Field Artillery; and Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 2nd Bde. Reorganization of the three infantry battalions within the 2nd SBCT began Wednesday and will conclude Dec. 16.

Within the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the Special Troops Battalion will also activate Wednesday. Units reorganizing include 3rd Bn., 7th FA; 3rd Squadron, 4th Cav. Regt.; HHC, 3rd Brigade; 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt.; 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt.; and the 325th Support Bn.

The Division Headquarters has also reorganized the HHC, and it has activated Tactical Command Posts and a Special Troops Bn.

The 25th Combat Aviation Brigade will activate two units by Jan. 2006, the 209th Aviation Support Bn. and 3rd Bn., 25th Avn. Rgt.

The brigade will reorganize 2nd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt. and HHC, Avn. Bde. The 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Rgt., will reorganize into 2nd Bn., 6th Cavalry Regt., next summer.

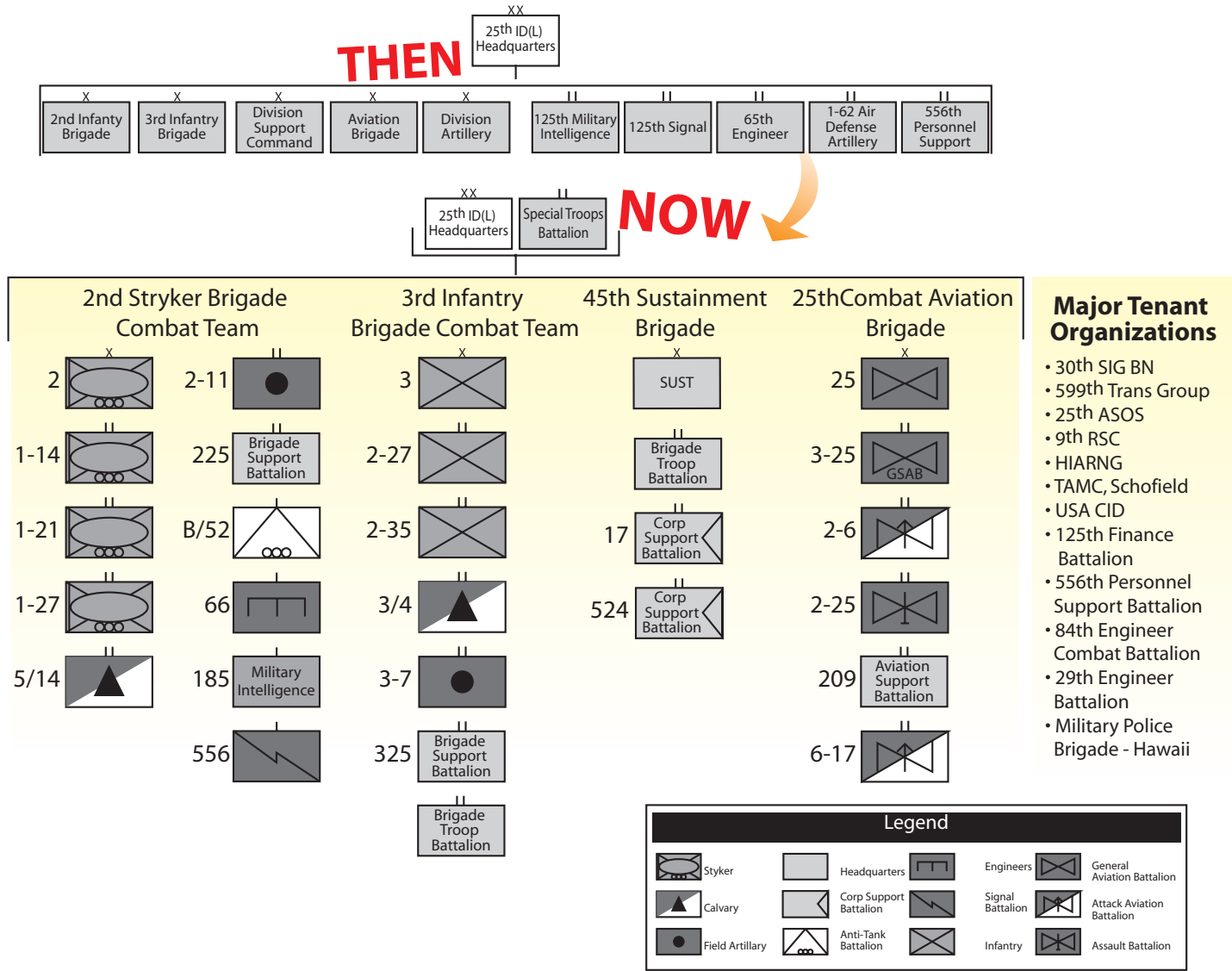
The 45th Corps Support Group will reorganize its headquarters, activate the 82nd Eng. Support Co. and become the 8th Theater Support Command.

This transformation process may seem very confusing on the surface, but Sparacio says when you dig below the surface it all makes sense.

“Many of our units inactivated as separate organizations that are now incorporated into the brigade combat team [BCT] structure that the Army is embracing,” he said. “Previously, we had separate infantry brigades who received support from separate functional supporting units such as engineer, signal, military police, military intelligence, quartermaster, ordnance, etc.

“Many of the separate units inactivated, but the personnel and much of the equipment is being reallocated to the now larger brigade combat team. That way the units can train together and deploy together as a cohesive team.”

How has the 25th reorganized?



2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team

2

2-11

1-14

225

1-21

B/52

1-27

66

5/14

185

556

3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

3

2-27

2-35

3/4

3-7

325

45th Sustainment Brigade

X

SUST

17

524

25th Combat Aviation Brigade

X

3-25

2-6

2-25

209

6-17

Major Tenant Organizations

• 30th SIG BN

• 599th Trans Group

• 25th ASOS

• 9th RSC

• HIARNG

• TAMC, Schofield

• USA CID

• 125th Finance Battalion

• 556th Personnel Support Battalion

• 84th Engineer Combat Battalion

• 29th Engineer Battalion

• Military Police Brigade - Hawaii

Legend

Stryker

Headquarters

Engineers

General Aviation Battalion

Calvary

Corp Support Battalion

Signal Battalion

Attack Aviation Battalion

Field Artillery

Anti-Tank Battalion

Infantry

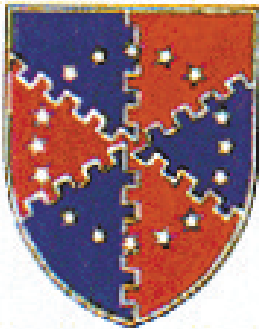
Assault Battalion



45th Corps Support Group



Division Artillery and Division Support Command



1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery



65th Engineer Battalion



125th Military Intelligence



125th Signal Battalion

45th Corps Support gets new name, mission

Spc. Amanda Flemett
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Rumor has it that the 45th Corps Support Group (Forward) is inactivating. The truth is, it will adjust to the needs of the Army'S transformation plan.
The history of the 45th began in 1936 as the 45th Quartermaster Regiment (Truck). After multiple changes, the 45th, activated at Fort Shafter in 1972 as the 45th Support Group. Twenty-one years later, the 45th re-designated to the 45th Corps Support Group (Forward).
“It’s not really going away, but it will change a little,” explained Capt. Jared Novak of the 45th CSG (F).
The unit designation will change from the 45th CSG (F) to the 8th Theater Support Command, and its assignment as a subordinate unit in U.S. Army, Pacific, will be among some of the changes.
The headquarters unit is the section that will oversee all logistics operations within the theater, while the 8th TSC will eventually increase the Army’s capability in USARPAC.
For the next year, 8th TSC will be an interim unit, fine-tuning

its role in USARPAC.
At the time, the 45th CSG (F) is authorized 123 personnel in HHC. In 2006, after the transformation to the 8th TSC has taken place, Soldier strength will double. By 2007, it should triple that amount.
The 8th TSC will be comprised of multiple components of the Army, including active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel who will focus on operations in the Pacific.
The unit will continue to use active duty personnel who have time left on the island.
“TSC is set up to be worldwide deployable, but focused on a certain theater,” said Novak, explaining the main mission for the 8th TSC.
The 45th will lose its two corps support battalions, the 17th CSB and the 524th CSB to Division Support Command; however, DISCOM became the 45th Sustainment Brigade Wednesday.
All of 45th CSG’s history will transfer to the 45th Sustainment Brigade.
Since Sept. 11, 2001, the 45th has



Courtesy Photos

Above — The 536th Maintenance Company practices marksmanship in different scenarios to stay sharp for combat.



Left — An ammunition casing is ejected from a M-16 rifle during marksmanship training in Iraq.

also spent time supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.
The 524th CSB deployed in support of OEF, and the 17th

CSB just returned from OIF.
The 84th Engineer Combat Battalion, another battalion subordinate to 45th CSG, will deploy in support of OIF next month.

Division Support Command takes on new roles

Pfc. Durwood Blackmon
Staff Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Change is apparent throughout the 25th Infantry Division as the Army continues to reorganize and restructure its fighting force.
Every Soldier, from the highest ranked to junior enlisted, is experiencing some form of the positive conversions that are taking place.
The 25th ID Division Support Command (DISCOM) is no exception. It has welcomed these innovative changes by overhauling its configuration to become a newly designed strength within the Army.
DISCOM shifted gears Wednesday from a support command to the 45th Sustainment Brigade. These changes have repositioned and assembled units from within the division to create a more diversified organization.
In June of this year, DISCOM released both the 225th Forward Support Battalion, which has been reclass-

sified as a brigade support battalion to 2nd Brigade, and the 325th FSB to 3rd Bde., said Capt. Benjamin J. Wunderlich, Division Bde. S-1 for the 45th Sust. Bde.
Additionally, several primary units that are not transforming at this time were also re-situated.
The 71st Chemical Company and the 8th Forward Surgical Team were both moved to the 45th Corp Support Group, Wunderlich said.
“Sections have also moved,” Wunderlich added. “For instance, the Division Medical Operation Center, which was in DISCOM ... under the new modular unit of action design ... is now part of the Division staff.”
Depending on requirements, Soldiers and G-1 personnel have also been cross-leveled to the 3rd Infantry Bde. Combat Team, the Stryker Bde., the Combat Aviation Bde., and the Division Headquarters.
The new focus of the 45th Sust. Bde. will be management of materials and assets both in

garrison and on deployments.
In Jan. 2007, the 45th Sust. Bde will become brigade headquarters for the 17th Corps Support Battalion, as well as the 524th CSB and all their subordinate units. At that time, it will become a three-battalion brigade, including its new brigade troops battalion.
The 17th and 524th will have very few modifications and will keep their supporting companies intact, said Wunderlich.
As the 45th label is reassigned to the Sustainment Brigade, those who are currently in the 45th Corps Support Group will become the foundation for the 8th Theater Support Command.
As units combine, they each bring with them valuable experience from varied deployments.
DISCOM Headquarters and newly inactivated 725th Main Support Battalion Headquarters deployed during February and April 2004 for 12 months in Afghanistan to support

Combined Joint Task Force–76 in Operation Enduring Freedom.
The 325th FSB also deployed to Afghanistan to support 3rd Bde. in February and April 2004.
The 225th FSB deployed in January and February 2004 with 2nd Bde. to Iraq for more than 12 months.
DISCOM becomes the 45th Sust. Bde. as it gears up for future deployment scheduled during the summer of 2006.
“Our Headquarters is scheduled and planning to deploy. We are starting to get ready,” said Wunderlich.
As the Army continues to restructure, Wunderlich appreciates the new changes that are taking place.
“It is exciting times; it’s been a challenge and has been a learning experience,” Wunderlich explained. “And we are still learning everyday.”
“It has been a lot of fun to see these major changes that don’t happen too often in one’s career ... to happen right in front of you. It’s been a good experience.”

TRANSFORMING MILESTONES

Changes abound in the 25th Infantry Division since redeployment from Afghanistan.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

May 25: 1st Bn., 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regt. inactivates

June 29: Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon assumes command of the Division
Aug. 16: 25th MP Co. inactivates

Sept. 9: Apache Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. inactivates

Nov. 2: 225th Brigade Support Battalion reorganizes

March 15: Tropic Lightning Division begin to redeploy

June 15: DIVARTY inactivates
June 23: Co. F, 2nd Bn., 25 Avn. Regt., inactivates

July 14: 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team (Alaska) joins 25th

Oct. 14: 5th Sqdn., 14th Cav. Regt., activates; 82nd Eng. Co., offloads equipment in Hawaii from South Korea; and 94th AAMDC activates

Oct. 28: 125th Signal Bn. inactivates

Combat Aviation Brigade continues to transform

Staff Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes
17th Public Affairs Detachment

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Since the 25th Aviation was constituted in 1957, many changes have occurred because of the improvement in technology and equipment, none more important than the work Soldiers and leaders are doing now to “Transform” the brigade.

By restructuring the units to tailor the needs of today’s Army in combat, it allows units to become a self-sustained fighting force.

“The brigade will change from three organic battalions, which includes one Attack, one Cavalry and one Assault and five separate companies to five Battalions, which will contain two Cavalry, one Assault, one General Support Avn. and one Avn. Support Battalion with two separate companies,” said Maj. Gregory A. Baker, executive officer, Combat Avn Bde, 25th ID.

About a 1,000 combat Soldiers will be added to the brigade to sustain these units and man the additional equipment that the brigade will receive.

“The Combat Avn Bde will receive an additional eight UH-60s Blackhawk helicopters, six CH-47s Heavy Lift Helicopters and 36 OH-58D Kiowa Warriors before deployment,” said Baker. “Additionally the brigade will gain over 635 wheeled vehicles.”

Not only will they receive new equipment, but they will also reset all of their old aircraft and equipment to be fixed to support the brigades.

“We will be taking aircraft from the combat theaters and restoring them to post deployment condition, inspect and repair to standards, eliminate desert induced damage and repair crash/battle debagged aircraft,” he added.

This move saves the Army millions of dollars instead of purchasing new aircraft and parts. It will also speed up the process to help units become closer to completion.

“As transformation continues, the Combat Aviation Brigade will have significantly enhanced capabilities that were not resident in our legacy force at the Divisional level,” according to Baker. “The brigade will have organic Heavy Lift Helicopters (CH-47s), MEDEVAC (HH-60s) and almost double the amount of attack Kiowa Warriors (OH-58Ds) and enhanced capabilities compared to that of our legacy force.”

Lt. Col. Michael Lundy

An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter from 1st Battalion (Attack), 25th Aviation Regiment patrols the skies over Baghdad, Iraq. “Lightning Attack” conducted aerial reconnaissance, close combat attacks and security missions for the 1st Armored Division and 1st Cavalry Division during its Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

Courtesy Photos

Above — A CH-47D Chinook helicopter gets prepped for C-17 aircraft transportation before its deployment to Pakistan.

Right — A water bucket, used to fight local brush fires, is lifted by a Chinook helicopter.

By coupling these new capabilities, with the addition of enhanced sustainment capabilities, the division will have a unit capable of supporting multiple Infantry Brigade Combat Teams at a same time maintaining the capability to tailor specific force packages to meet other contingency operations, according to Baker.

Transformation hasn’t stop the accomplishment and success of the brigade. The Avn. Bde. began supporting the Global War on Terrorism in January 2004 with the deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The remainder of the Avn. Bde. began deploying in March 2004 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“The brigade is conducting its transformation while simultaneously having units deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom, providing Humanitarian missions in Pakistan,” said Baker.

The brigade is also fulfilling its global commitment to the Army with elements deployed to central Asia and the Florida Coast.

What does it mean?

Transformation brings with it new Army lingo, which Soldiers and civilians on Army installations will hear in the days ahead mixed betwixt “old-timer” acronyms and abbreviations.

- ACR – Armored Cavalry Regiment
- ADA – Air Defense Artillery
- ASB – Aviation Support Battalion
- ASA (ALT) – Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology)
- AT – Annual Training
- ATM – Air Training Manual or Asynchronous Transfer Mode (dependent on context)
- CAB – Combat Aviation Brigade
- CDR – Commander
- CIC – Command Information Center
- COMSEC – Communications Security
- CSA – Chief of Staff, Army
- C2 – Command and Control
- DIV – Division, Divisional
- DoD – Department of Defense
- E-Date – Effective Date
- FORSCOM – Forces Command
- FRAGO – Fragmented Article
- FTX – Field Training Exercise
- GPS – Global Positioning System
- GS – General Support
- GSAB – General Support Aviation Battalion
- HQDA – Headquarters, Department of the Army
- IA – Information Assurance
- IBCT – Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- IOC – Initial Operational Capability
- ISO – In Support Of
- JTF – Joint Task Force
- MRX – Mission Readiness Exercise
- NET – New Equipment Training
- PDSS – Pre Deployment Site Survey
- QRF – Quick Reaction Force
- SBCT – Stryker Brigade Combat Team
- TACSOP – Tactical Standing Operating Procedures
- TMSS – Trailer Mounted Support System
- TRADOC – Training and Doctrine Command
- TUAV – Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- UE – Unit of Execution
- UIC – Unit Identity Code
- USMTF – United States Message Text Format
- V – Version
- VMC – Vehicle Mounted Configuration
- WAN – Wide Area Network
- WSO – Workstation Operator
- XML – Extensible Markup Language

25th Special Troops Battalion is Division’s main support element

The battalion will provide worldwide, deployable battle command capabilities

Sgt. Sean Kimmons
Assistant Editor

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The command group from the recently inactivated 125th Military Intelligence Battalion is in the process of building up a support battalion for the 25th Infantry Division.

Focus of the new 25th Special Troops Battalion is to sustain the Division’s main command post and

two tactical command posts with its signal and logistical capabilities, among others.

The battalion officially activated Tuesday and currently stands at 70 percent of its projected personnel. When transformation is complete, more than 880 personnel will fall under the battalion.

Transformation for the battalion began in August at about the same time when 125th MI Bn. deactivated.

“Essentially, this battalion was headquartered around the old MI battalion,” said Maj. Edward O’Neill, S3 for 25th STB.

As Lt. Col. Patricia A. Frost, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Gertin and the rest of the command group from 125th MI Bn. propped up the support outfit from almost nothing, two military intelligence companies separated off to 2nd and 3rd Brigades.

“It’s a great opportunity to see a unit grow from the very beginning,” O’Neill said about the support battalion. “We have unique capabilities to support the Division.”

Soldiers of Company A, 25th STB, will be responsible to provide C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) capabilities to the Division’s command posts.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th STB, will be the main logistical support element. And also transitioning into the battalion is the Division headquarters, Tropic Lightning Band and 17th Public Affairs Detachment.

Each of these assets will play a role in assisting the Division’s

command posts as they operate independently over a large battle space.

This will not be the first time the battalion has supported the Division in combat though.

“It’s a new organization with roots from World War II,” O’Neill said.

The unit’s lineage dates back to 1943, and it has seen combat in three different wars. In the near future, the unit will see a fourth.

“We’re all excited about our next mission, which will be in Iraq next summer,” O’Neill said.